OSTRANDER, YALE & McDONNELL

DEADSHOT™

"HOMECOMING"

FOUR ISSUE MINI-SERIES

ASTRIDE A GRAVE

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THE HOME OF GENEVIEVE PITT LAWTON

DON'T MOVE

I'VE WON MARKSMANSHIP TROPHIES WITH THIS GUN.
I'M THE EQUAL OF MY SON DEADSHOT. PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM?
YES, I HAVE-- I'M HIS THERAPIST.
AH-- THE VOICE AT MY DOOR THIS AFTERNOON WHO WOULD NOT TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER AND RETURNS IN THE NIGHT TO DISTURB MY REST.
I COULD HAVE YOU ARRESTED FOR BREAKING AND ENTERING, MY DEAR.
GO AHEAD. BUT BEFORE YOU CALL, UNDERSTAND I KNOW CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FLOYD. IF YOU DON'T TALK TO ME, MORE PEOPLE WILL KNOW ABOUT THEM.
AND IF I JUST SHOT YOU DEAD?

YOU'RE A HOME INVADER. IT'S DARK OUT. I'M AN OLD WOMAN. I WAS FRIGHTENED AND KILLED YOU BEFORE I COULD SEE WHO YOU ARE. IT'S A PLAUSIBLE DEFENSE.

IT'S BULL. IT WON'T PLAY. AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY. FIRST OF ALL YOU'RE AN ALLEGED RECLUSE. A MURDER TRIAL, EVEN A CORONER'S INQUEST, WOULD REQUIRE YOUR PRESENCE FOR TESTIMONY.

SECOND OF ALL, THE SHERIFF KNOWS ABOUT MY VISIT EARLIER TODAY... THERE'S A NOTE BACK WHERE I'M STAYING FOR HIM SAYING MRS. LATTON CHANGED HER MIND, SAYS YOU SENT WORD FOR ME TO COME UP AND VISIT.

KILL ME AND YOUR SPOOKY LOSES A LOT OF CREDIBILITY.

YOU'RE BLUFFING!
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I THINK A LITTLE TALK IS PREFERABLE TO POLICE AND CORONERS INVESTIGATING A BLOODY CORPSE IN YOUR HALL -- LESS PUBLICITY, DON'T YOU AGREE?

YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STYLE, MY DEAR. YOU DON'T BACK SOMEONE INTO A CORNER -- YOU STEER THEM DOWN A PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE WHERE YOU WANT THEM TO GO.

LET'S CHAT OVER A NICE POT OF TEA, SHALL WE? YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW WHILE I FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT YOU DO KNOW. hmm?

THIS MAN NEEDS MEDICAL SUPERVISION! I STRONGLY PROTEST YOUR REMOVING HIM FROM THIS HOSPITAL!
YEAH, YOU DO THAT! I GOT POWER OF ATTORNEY. HE DOESN'T WANT TO STAY SO WE'RE LEGALLY CHECKING OUT!
NOW!

THERE GOES AN EX-PATIENT.
SQUEEEL!

WHY... DID YOU GRAB ME... OUTTA HOSPITAL ?
IT'S ALL GONE WRONG LAWTON KILLED PANTHA. HE GOT ANSELM AND HIS WHOLE CREW, EXCEPT FOR WES ANSELM. WES ESCAPED WITH THE KID

HE TRACKED THEM DOWN THIS MORNING WES HAD KILLED THE KID LAWTON BLEW WES APART PIECEMEAL WITH HIS MAGNUMS BEFORE HE KILLED HIM

SAYS HE'S GONNA KILL EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH THIS
RRRR!

SHE WAS... SO SURE, SO CONFIDENT... LAWTON WOULD SNAP RIGHT TO, FALL... IN LINE. SHE'S HIS MOTHER... THE WOMAN... OUGHT TO KNOW... HER SON'S MIND!

YOU... DID GOOD, ANDY. SITTING DUCK... IN HOSPITAL WILL COME FOR US. SHOULDN'T BE OUT... IN COUNTRY. EASY TARGETS.

SCREECH!

OUT OF THE CAR! C'MON! OUTTA THE CAR!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! WHAT IS ALL THIS?!

OUT OF THE CAR!!!

HAVE YOU GONE... OUT OF YOUR MIND?! WHAT ARE YOU... TRYING TO DO... KILL ME?!
YOU'RE A MORON! AN IMBECILE! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BOTHERED ASKING ME HOW I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS!

COME... THE COPS TOLD YOU.

NO!
HE TOLD ME! PLEASHOT! HE CAME BACK AND TOLD ME! HE TOLD ME I HAD TO GET YOU OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, GET YOU SOME PLACE ALONE SO HE COULD DEAL WITH YOU! AND THEN--MAYBE--HE'S GOING TO KILL ME! ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!!!

BLAM BLAM BLAM!!

LAWTON! I GOT HIM! I GOT HIM FOR YOU! SEE?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL SCHALE'S NOW!! I DID IT FOR YOU! I'VE MADE IT UP! SEE?!

DON'T KILL ME, LAWTON! I MADE UP FOR WHAT HAPPENED!!!

YOU DO TOO MUCH, ANDY. SCHALLER WAS MINE.

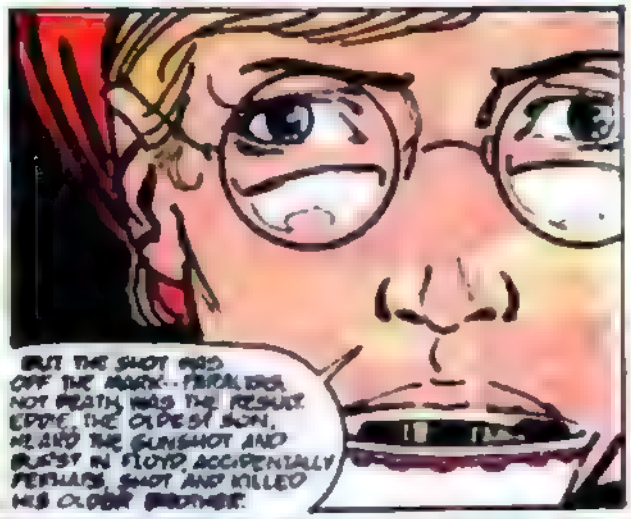
BLAM!

ONE TO GO

VROOOOM

HELP YOURSELF TO THE CREAM AND SUGAR, MY DEAR. WE WON'T STAND ON CEREMONY THIS EVENING.
AH, THANK YOU, MRS. LAWSON.
NOW... LET'S SHARE OUR SECRETS, SHALL WE?

I DON'T THINK THE MATTER YOU FEEL TOWARD YOUR HUSBAND IS A BIG SECRET, MRS. LAWSON. YOU FANNED THAT HATRED IN FLOYD, SETTING HIM AGAINST HIS FATHER TO KILL HIM.

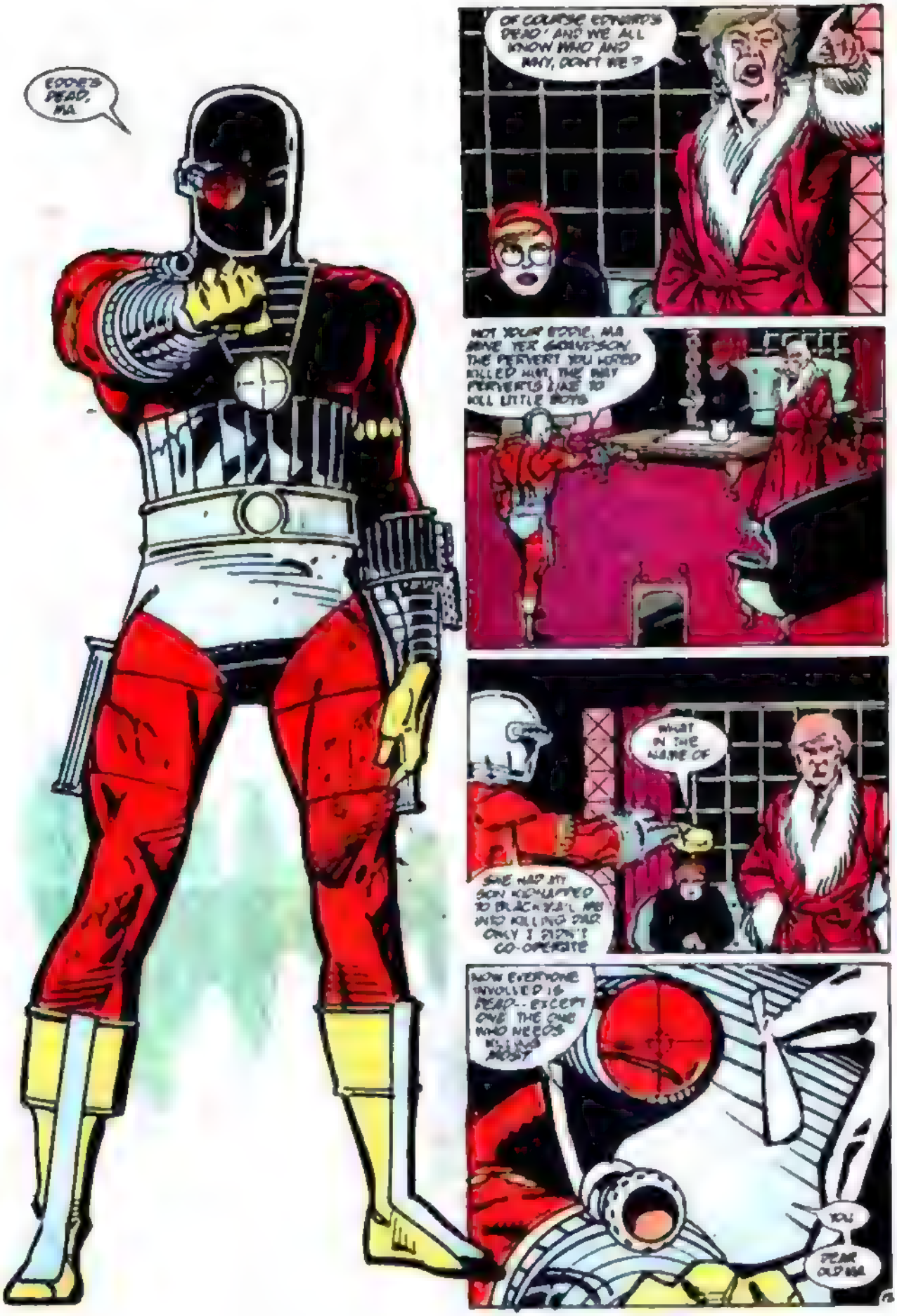

BUT THE SHOT WAS OFF THE MARK... FERAL ERS NOT FRATH WAS THE RESULT. EDDIE, THE OLDEST SON, HEARD THE GUNSHOT AND BURST IN. FLOYD ACCIDENTALLY PERHAPS, SHOT AND KILLED HIS OLDER BROTHER.

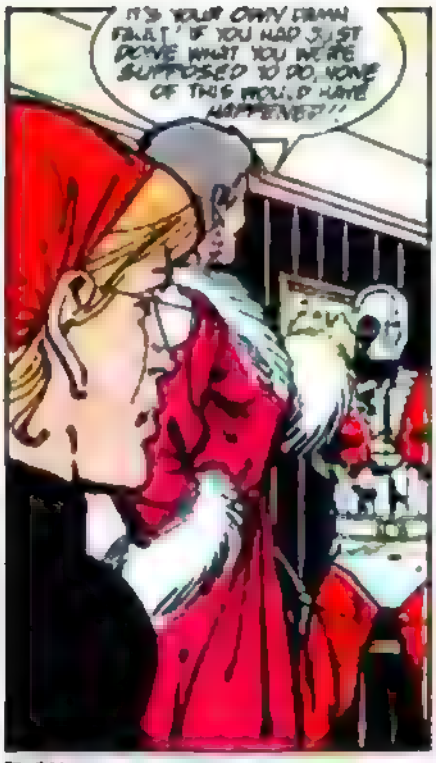
MY DEAR, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. YOU SUSPECT, BUT YOU KNOW NOTHING. YOU'RE MERELY GUESSING, LIKE MANY PEOPLE THROUGH THE YEARS. I'VE NEVER CONFIRMED THESE SPECULATION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
FOR ALL I KNOW YOU MIGHT BE "WIRED FOR SOUND", ISN'T THAT THE PHRASE?— WITH A BUG FOR THAT NICE YOUNG SHERIFF.

NO NO BUGS, MRS. LAWSON. I'M A THE RAPIST, NOT A COP.
I'M HERE TO HELP FLOYD.

HOW ALTRUISTIC OF YOU, MY DEAR. WELL, I WON'T CONFIRM OR DENY YOUR SPECULATIONS ABOUT ME, BUT YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT ABOUT FLOYD.

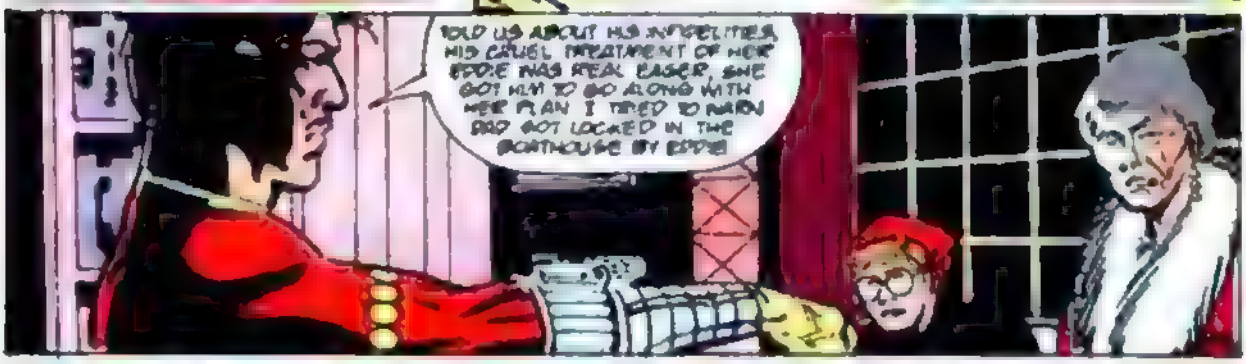
FLOYD SHOT HIS FATHER
EDWARD HEARD THE GUNSHOT AND RUSHED INTO THE ROOM WHERE HE FOUND HE STRUGGLED WITH FLOYD FOR THE GUN. IT WENT OFF PERHAPS ACCIDENTALLY (WHAT MATTER?) EDWARD WAS DEAD
MY HUSBAND PERSISTS IN BELIEVING I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTING HE HAS PUNISHED ME BY FORCING ME TO LIVE IN THESE SURROUNDINGS ON A MERE PITTANCE, WITH NO DIVORCE
OTHERWISE HE WILL TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT FLOYD AND I WILL LOSE BOTH MY SONS.
REAL TEARS! NO GENUINE CROCODILE TEARS


EDDIE'S DEAD, MA.
OF COURSE EDWARD'S DEAD! AND WE ALL KNOW WHO AND WHY, DON'T WE?
NOT YOUR EDDIE, MA. MINE. YER GOMPERSON THE PERVERT YOU HIRED KILLED HIM. THE WAY PERVERTS LIKE TO KILL LITTLE BOYS.
WHAT IN THE NAME OF
SHE HAD MY SON KIDNAPPED TO BLACKMAIL ME INTO KILLING DAD. ONLY I DIDN'T CO-OPERATE.
NOW EVERYONE INVOLVED IS DEAD -- EXCEPT ONE. THE ONE WHO NEEDS KILLING MOST.
YOU
DEAR OLD MA.


IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT! IF YOU HAD JUST DONE WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DO, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!!!

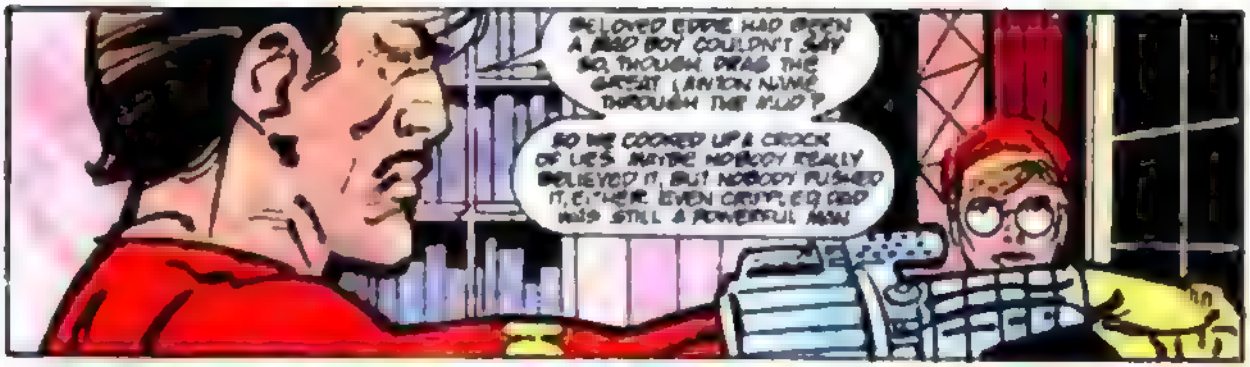
HA-HA-HA! THE OLD HAG WON'T TELL THE TRUTH EVEN NOW!

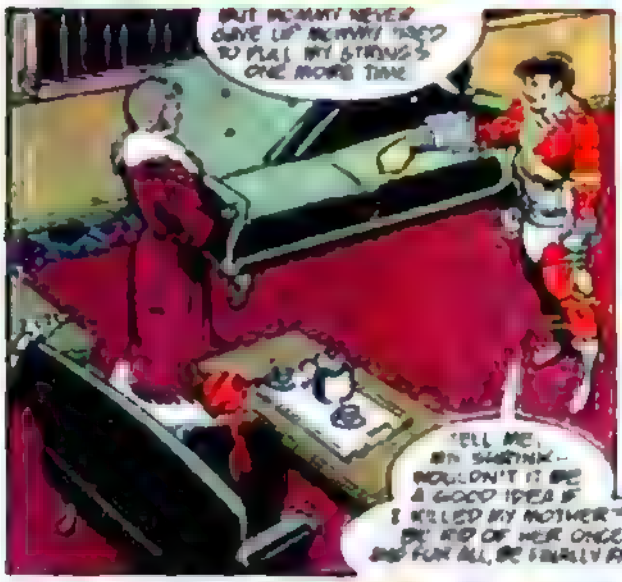
SO LEMME TELL YOU THE REAL STORY, HERO... ABOUT A WOMAN WHO ASKED HER TWO SONS TO MURDER HER HUSBAND

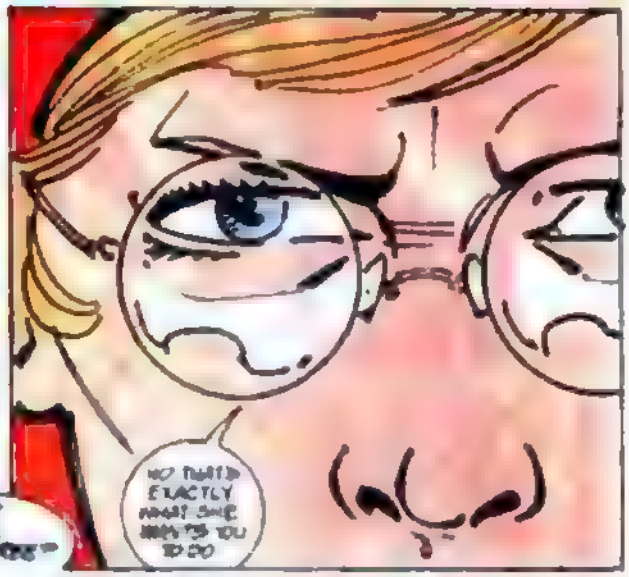

TOLD US ABOUT HIS INFIDELITIES, HIS CRUEL TREATMENT OF HER. EDDIE WAS REAL EASY, SHE GOT HIM TO GO ALONG WITH HER PLAN. I TRIED TO WARN DAD. GOT LOCKED IN THE BOATHOUSE BY EDDIE!

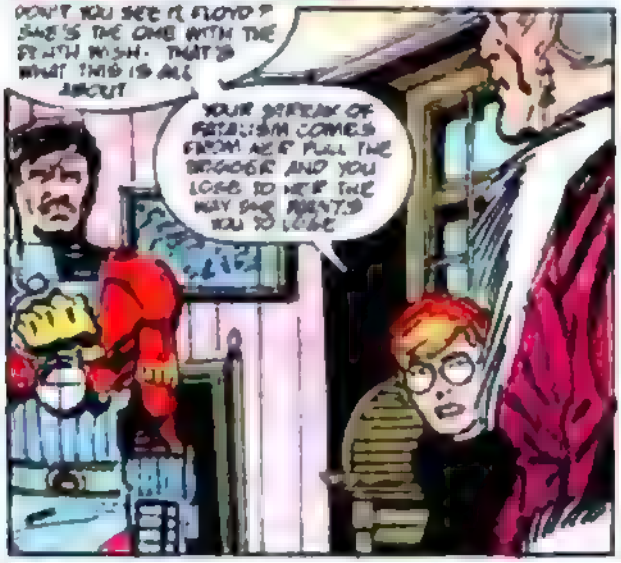
I KICKED DOWN THE DOOR, GRABBED THE HUNTING RIFLE I KEPT THERE AND WENT AFTER HIM. COULDN'T GET IN - EDDIE LOCKED ME OUT OF THE HOUSE. SNEAKED UP A TREE IN TIME TO SEE DARLING EDDIE SHOOT DAD IN THE LIBRARY.

TOOK AIM AND FIRED, AIMING FOR THE ARM. TREE BRANCH I WAS ON GAVE WAY AND THE SHOT WENT BAD. HIT EDDIE BETWEEN THE EYES.


BELOVED EDDIE HAD BEEN A BAD BOY COULDN'T SAY NO, THOUGH. DRAG THE GREAT LAWSON NAME THROUGH THE MUD?
SO WE COOKED UP A CROCK OF LIES. MAYBE NOBODY REALLY BELIEVED IT, BUT NOBODY PUSHED IT, EITHER. EVEN CRIPPLED DAD WAS STILL A POWERFUL MAN

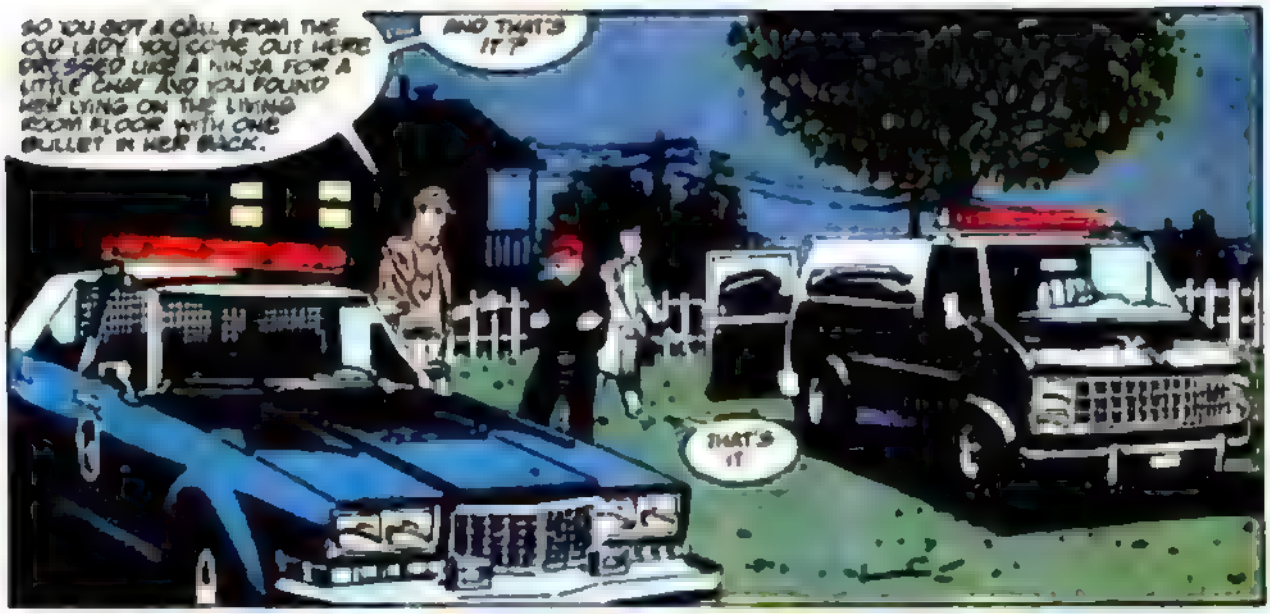

BUT MOMMY NEVER GIVE UP. MOMMY TRIED TO PULL MY STRINGS ONE MORE TIME
TELL ME, MR. SHRINK - WOULDN'T IT BE A GOOD IDEA IF I KILLED MY MOTHER? RID OF HER ONCE AND FOR ALL, BE FINALLY FREE?


NO THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTS YOU TO DO

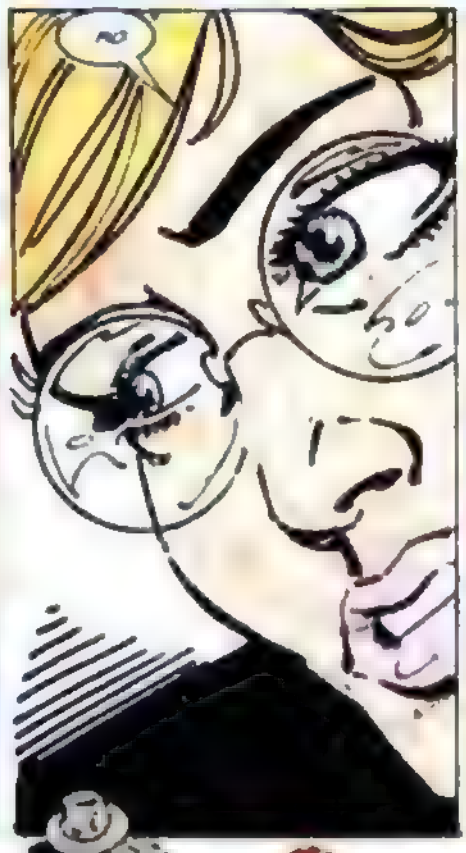

DON'T YOU SEE IT, FLOYD? SHE'S THE ONE WITH THE DEATH WISH. THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT
YOUR DREAM OF PARADISM COMES FROM ME. I PULL THE TRIGGER AND YOU LOSE TO HER THE WAY SHE WANTS YOU TO LOSE

HUMPH! COWARD! YOU! GUILTLESS, WORTHLESS, BECAUSE OF A WOMAN! YOU DISGRACE THE LEMTON NAME! I DISOWN YOU!!
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!! YOU'RE NO SON OF MINE!!
ARRGGHHH!!
BLAM!
SHE'S ALIVE
I DECIDED YOU WERE RIGHT. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO KILL HER
SO I PUT A BULLET CLOSE TO HER SPINE. THEN SHE AND DAD ARE A MATCHED SET!

LEAVE! GET OUT OF HERE... NOW! GET BACK TO BELLE REVE! I'LL HANDLE THIS END!
NOW, THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE PLAYED, MRS. LAWTON... I CAME TO YOUR HOUSE AT YOUR REQUEST AND I FOUND YOU LIKE THIS. YOU'VE GOT NO IDEA OF WHO, HOW, OR WHY YOU WERE SHOT.
ONE WORD ABOUT FLOYD AND I GUARANTEE YOU'RE ARRESTED FOR INSTIGATING THE DEATH OF YOUR OWN HUSBAND. ALL THE SORDID DIRTY DETAILS WILL COME OUT!
YOU'LL END UP IN A REAL CASE NOT A GILDED ONE.
YOU CAN ROT IN PRISON FOR ALL I CARE, YOU VINDICTIVE OLD BAT. BUT SOMEONE SHOULD GIVE FLOYD A BREAK.
AND IT'S GOING TO BE ME. YOU UNDERSTAND?
WHAM


SO YOU GOT A CALL FROM THE OLD LADY YOU COME OUT HERE DRESSED LIKE A NINJA FOR A LITTLE CHAT AND YOU FOUND HER LYING ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR WITH ONE BULLET IN HER BACK.
AND THAT'S IT?
THAT'S IT

WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE DEADSHOT IS RIGHT ABOUT NOW— BECAUSE THERE ARE REPORTS SITTING ON MY DESK ABOUT HIS SON
HE'S DEAD— KIDNAPPED AND MURDERED THE MAN RENTING THE APARTMENT WHERE THE BOY WAS FOUND IS WEARING A TOE TAG. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, DO YOU—


NO

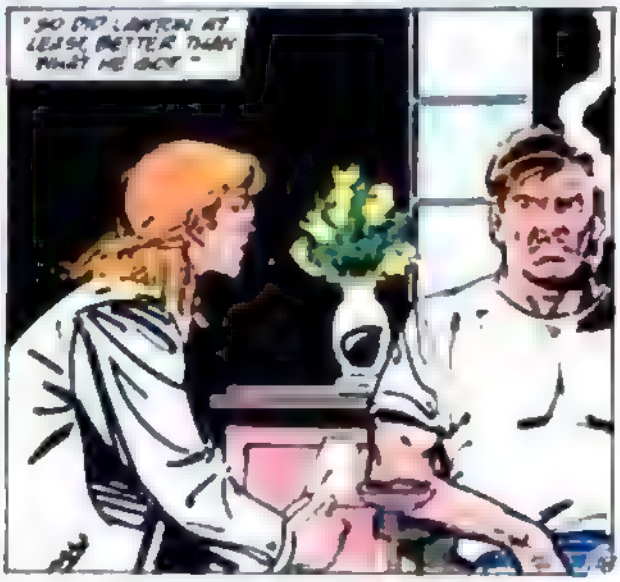
RIGHT
KEEP YOURSELF AVAILABLE FOR THE INQUEST. YOU'LL BE WANTED TO TESTIFY. OTHERWISE, YOU CAN GET OUT OF TOWN. GET OUT OF TOWN
GOOD-BY, KING HEADA

LOOK! THIS A DOZEN DEAD AND HIS MOMMY WARNED!
WHAT DID YOU TELL THE AUTHORITIES?
THAT LAWTON WAS LOCKED UP HERE AND THIS WAS A COPYCAT KILLER ON. I JUST LOVE BEING MADE INTO AN ACCESSORY TO LAWTON'S MURDERS.

MACH, OF COURSE, YOU WERE'NT IN THE EL JEFE MATTER

DIFFERENT SITUATION SAYON. EL JEFE'S DEATH WAS JUSTIFIED.
NO DOUBT COULD NOT LAWTON MAKE THE SAME JUSTIFICATION?

YOU DON'T ALIVE TO COVER FOR LAWTON
I DON'T WANT THE SQUAD EXPOSED AND MY MEN'S WOULD BE PROSECUTED AS AN ACCOMPLICE. SHE DESERVES BETTER


"SO DID LAWTON AT LEAST BETTER THAN WHAT HE GOT."

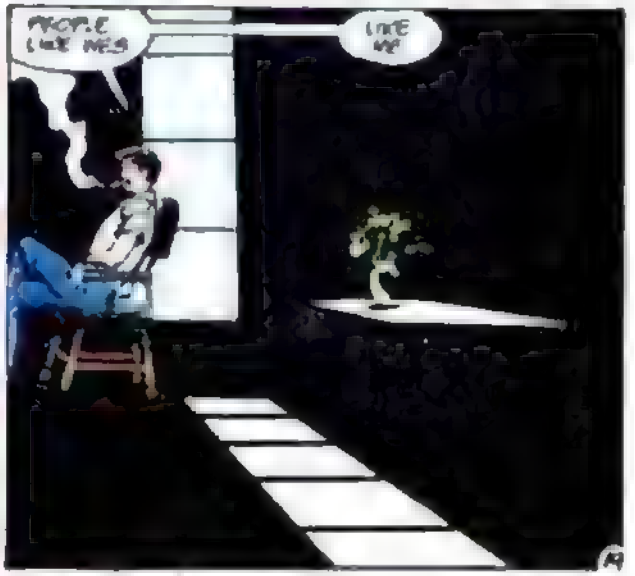
WELL, FLOYD-- I TALKED WITH DR. LA GRIEVE AND HE SAID IF YOU WERE WILLING, I COULD START SESSIONS WITH YOU AGAIN. IS THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?

NO.

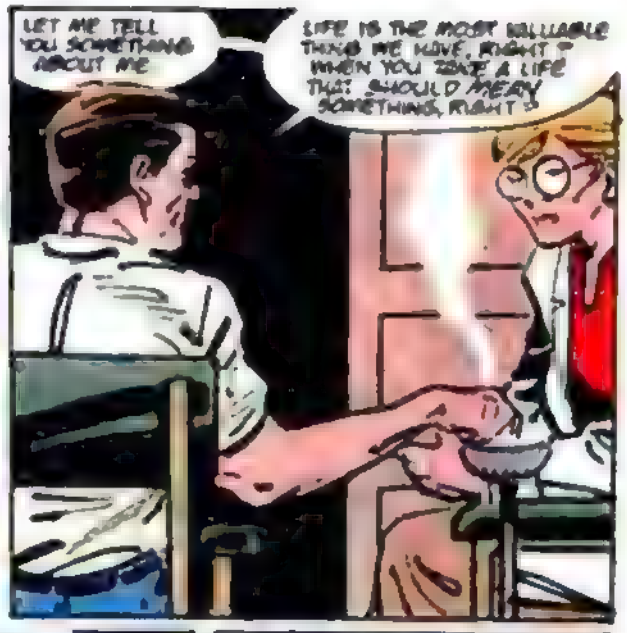
I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! FLOYD, NOW THAT THE MATTER OF YOUR FAMILY IS OUT IN THE OPEN WE COULD MAKE SOME REAL PROGRESS.
AND I COULD BE CURED?

THAT'S YER PROBLEM, LADY. YOU BELIEVE PEOPLE CAN BE CURED, BE MADE HEALTHY, BE MORE NORMAL... THAT THEY CAN BE SAVED. THAT THEY SHOULD BE SAVED.

BUT MAYBE THE ONLY WAY TO CURE SOME PEOPLE IS WITH A BULLET BETWEEN THE EYES.

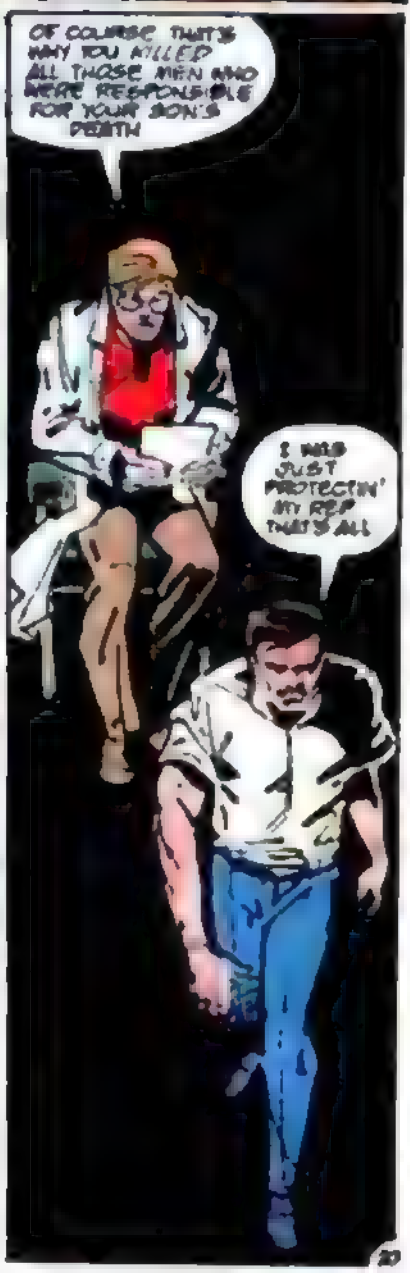

PEOPLE LIKE MEA
LIKE ME.

DO YOU HATE YOURSELF THAT MUCH?


LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT ME
LIFE IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING WE HAVE, RIGHT? WHEN YOU TAKE A LIFE THAT SHOULD MEAN SOMETHING, RIGHT?

WHEN I KILLED MY BROTHER, I FELT NOTHING NO GUILT, NO REMORSE -- NOTHING AND HE WAS THE ONE PERSON IN THIS WORLD I EVER GAVE TWO FAWN ABOUT

THEY LEFT TO ME -- ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFE. THE ONLY LIFE ANYBODY REALLY CARES ABOUT IS THEIR OWN AND I DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THAT
YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M JUST KILLING TIME, WAITING TO DIE


OF COURSE THAT'S WHY YOU KILLED ALL THOSE MEN WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SON'S DEATH
I WAS JUST PROTECTIN' MY REP THAT'S ALL

BULL! YOU'RE RATIONALIZING SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THE ANGER-- THE GRIEF-- YOU'VE GOT SUBLIMATED DEEP DOWN.
YOU THINK SO, HUH?

YOU SHRINKS ARE ALL ALIKE! YOU THINK FACTS EXPLAIN THINGS!
YOU COULD KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT ME AND YOU STILL WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN ME-- TO YOURSELF OR ANYONE ELSE!

THAT'S WHY I PUT UP WITH THESE BULLSESSIONS! KEEPS THE WALL HAPPY AND YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE! BUT THEY DON'T REALLY TELL YOU NOTHIN'!

WHAT YOU CAN'T DEAL WITH IS MAYBE-- JUST MAYBE-- SOME PEOPLE CAN'T BE CURED

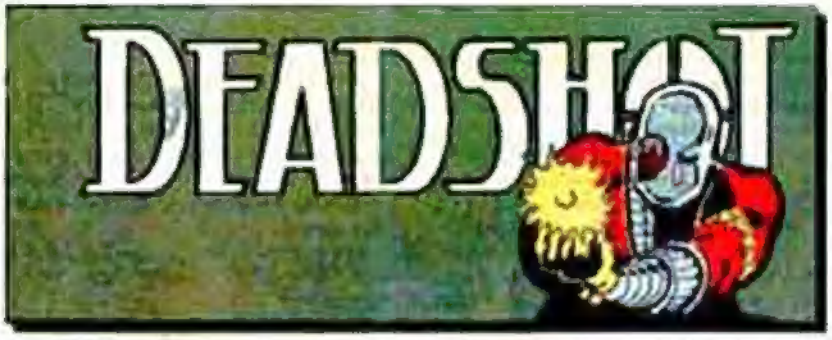
THAT THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING THAT IS EVIL..

SO ALL THIS IS A DEAD END. LIKE YOU AND ME ARE A DEAD END BECAUSE THERE'S REALLY NO PLACE FOR ANYTHING TO GO.

YOU WON'T RISK IT. WILL YOU RISK THAT YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT YOURSELF.
RISK YOU MIGHT HAVE TO CHANGE.

I AM WHO I AM. I AM WHAT I AM.
THE CARDS ARE DEALT.

LET'EM LIE
Fin



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Dear Mr. Greenberger,

I'm a big fan of SUICIDE SQUAD, so of course I picked up DEADSHOT. I'm always happy to see a character from a team book expanded upon in his/her own limited series. Of course, now that you've done Deadshot, I've just gotta ask John, Kim, and Luke for the Captain Boomerang limited series. Okay, I know that the probability is quite low, but as far as I'm concerned, the guy's a nut! He certainly deserves to be spotlighted a bit.

But, on to Deadshot. I enjoyed this issue, although I felt that it was cheating a bit to put Batman on the cover without his actually making an appearance in the comic. He did appear in only one panel, after all. Personally, I was looking forward to seeing them face off once again.

I like Deadshot. He kills without a thought; and he risks being killed without a thought. He is truly living life on the edge. I am looking forward to seeing more of his past in the next three issues.

Luke McDonnell's art looks great when he inks his own pencils, something I hope he will do in future issues of SUICIDE SQUAD. As for this guy Ostrander—isn't he getting tired? FIRESTORM, SUICIDE SQUAD, WASTELAND, DEADSHOT, MANHUNTER. John, you poor guy. Greenberger, give this guy a vacation! He certainly deserves it.

Jeff "LW" Lacasse
1516 West Cherry Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436

John gets every blue moon off. Besides, he has his adorable wife Kim Yale aiding and abetting on DEADSHOT, SUICIDE SQUAD, and MANHUNTER while he receives immeasurable help from Del Close on WASTELAND. It's all those new series he's thinking up that scare me.

* * * * *

John D.,

Y'know, I'd always considered *Gnemick* #9 to be the best psychological drama you've ever written.

Until DEADSHOT #1.

"Die But Once" was a really jarring look into the life of one Floyd Lawton.

It kept me on the edge of my seat, both mentally and physically, for the entire 22 pages. It amazed me at the deeds he commits so callously, and heartlessly. It proved to me how cheaply Lawton values all life, with his own being worth the very least to him.

I really loved this first issue, and I'm anxiously awaiting the next three.

Elvis Green
17650 Dawson Road
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

* * * * *

Dear Bob and John and Luke:

Ever since I saw him in WHO'S WHO on so many years ago, I've always thought that Deadshot was a pretty cool character. Unfortunately, along with being cool, he was also unused. I never understood why writers preferred "characters" like the Calendar Man and Black Mask for Batman's villains when characters like Deadshot existed. To each his own, I guess.

When I saw that Deadshot was going to be brought back and placed in SUICIDE SQUAD, I became interested in the character again. I was never really a big fan of the book as a whole, but I would occasionally thumb through issues on the stand, just to see what was up with him. But now that he's got his own mini-series, I can see what the deal is first-hand.

I have to tell you (as if you don't already know) Deadshot is a pretty grim character—the assassin with the death wish, as he's billed. I don't know, I think it makes some interesting reading. When it comes to his own life, he's totally apathetic. "So?" seems to be his answer for everything. He takes Clint's "make my day" one step further.

If there was one gripe with the story, it'd be concerning the involvement of the other members of the Suicide Squad. I would rather have seen Deadshot improvise during his free fall from the pen and save his own life (although I doubt he would have) as opposed to being saved by the broad in the purple tights (what's her name?). But that's just a small gripe.

The *most* interesting thing about DEADSHOT #1 is Luke's illustrations. When he inks his own stuff, it certainly looks different. With every page there seems to be a different influence. I see a bit of Jack Kirby in some places, along with a strong Steve Rude and Mitch O'Connell influence in others. But then, he turns around and uses these really thin lines which look like he's got a strong Chaykin influence. The weird part, however, is when he uses the really thick black lines. It's like a combination influence of Matt Howarth and Roy Lichtenstein! Does that make sense?

If you ask me, Luke has something the makings of a brewing here. But he's not going to reach full potential until he sets straight in his mind what he wants to do. It doesn't make sense to me, for him to use broad lines for description on the majority of half the faces and then switch back to the thinner lines for the other half. Luke, a word of advice: continue the thick black lines and large patches of black. Limit the use of thin lines and crosshatching. The broad strokes are much more bold and intense. Also, study more the current work of Rude, O'Connell, Jamie Hernandez, and Jose Munoz. Another thing you might want to concentrate more on your drawings of the upper body, especially the shoulders and arms. Often, your upper bodies seem stiffed and cramped.

Overall, I think issue #1 is rather successful. If DEADSHOT continues indefinitely with the current team, I'll buy it.

Christopher Romano
Pacific Palisades, CA

Shame on you for not recognizing the Black Orchid, Chris. She was also spotlighted in WHO'S WHO, just a few issues before Deadshot's entry. We forgive you since she gets her own mini-series this month. It's in the Prestige Format and worth everyone's attention.

* * * * *

Dear John, Kim, Luke, Robert, and company,

I'm glad to see the SUICIDE SQUAD has become popular and lucrative enough that comic books like the DOOM PATROL/SUICIDE SQUAD SPECIAL and the new DEADSHOT mini-series are given a chance.

Deadshot intrigues me. Although I've never quite been able to swallow his "wrist magnum" guns (I would think the kick from a magnum would break his wrist everytime he fired it ... besides, it would be a lot more interesting to see him carry a variety of handguns, derringers, large and small calibre weapons and have him "quick draw" the correct weapon while mentally figuring the range of his target and whether he needs to kill the target or just wing it), and although it sometimes seems that even Jimmy Olsen could be an expert marksman if he carried one of those great infrared, built in cross-hair masks that Deadshot wears, the implications of why he does what he does makes him a character to be reckoned with.

In the last page of DEADSHOT #1, it is suggested by Robert that perhaps Deadshot muses when he's around Batman because he regards Bats as kind of a

"father figure." I think a more interesting and consistent explanation might be in with Lawton's obvious death wish. Perhaps Lawton realized early in his career that if he tangled with Batman often enough, Batman just might kill him. As Batman realized in THE KILLING JOKE that his adversary relationship with the Joker would lead to one of them getting killed, perhaps Deadshot realized the same thing about his relationship with Batman. Perhaps he wants Batman to kill him. Perhaps Deadshot is suicidal (an interesting concept for a Suicide Squad member) and he really wants Batman to murder him.

Perhaps...

But in the less speculative aspects of the story, there are other fields of interest. Luke McDonnell will never be one of my favorite artists (his action scenes are too stiff and posed and he's inconsistent (like having Deadshot wear a holster on the cover, or turning Batman's famous ribbed cape into a shower curtain), but his work is showing improvement in this issue.

Maybe he should ink his own stuff all the time. The art looks less "muddy" than regular issues of SS generally do.

I'm glad to see the plot conflict between Lawton and his therapist may be resolved. SS is so full of subplots I doubt if all of them will ever be resolved, but if Marnie is on his trail, this could lead to a deeper and more detailed explanation of his personal problems when she finally catches up with him.

Finally, I worry about the villains in the Squad losing their "bad guy" status after working for the government. After this series, let Deadshot show up as a villain in Batman sometimes to keep his good standing as a villain. Particularly interesting would be having Deadshot go up against Green Arrow (another marksman who seemingly "can't miss") or matching his shooting skills against Vigilante or Peacemaker.

T.E. Pouncey
Wichita, KS

Trust us, no one thinks Deadshot is becoming a good guy and upcoming plans will keep things going in that direction. As for pitting him against other heroes, it's an interesting idea. But let's not forget, Vigilante is dead. Now, there was someone with a death wish.

* * * * *

Dear Deadheads,

Finally, we get to see the inner workings of one of the characters of the Suicide Squad. In the Squad itself, there is little room for major development in the characters because there are so many comings and goings. But this — this is a fabulous idea. Deadshot is the character that drew me to collect the Squad. I had never heard of him before WHO'S WHO, but when I saw his small entry, I read it and became an instant fan. Then I saw him in LEGENDS, and I snatched the SQUAD as soon as I could. I loved the little teases with Floyd a so-called death wish—it makes his confrontations with other people more interesting. I also like the fact that when his assignment is to eliminate someone, and this someone is in his sights, he doesn't stuff it over, he just gets the job done. It's more realistic. Another thing on his death wish—what if he meets someone who is already dead?

The series so far looks excellent. Luke's inks over his pencils give it a dark look, like it should. Seeing more of the supporting characters is great, too. Seeing Floyd's history being reviewed by his psychiatrist is an interesting angle. You should do this more often.

I have one question concerning Deadshot's costume, though. The silver shin guards on his yellow boots seem worthless unless they have a use. A suggestion: for close fighting, blades could shoot up from them and extend past the knee, so when he bent and lifted it, the blade could damage or kill his opponent.

Again, good job. Incidentally, isn't this the first DC title strictly for one of DC's so-called super-villains?

Jon C. Johnson
64 Indian Hill Avenue
Portland, CT 06480

No, the Joker beat Deadshot by about 10 years. The Joker had his own series, facing him against a variety of DC heroes but it lasted a mere nine issues. One of those stories, with the Creeper, will be included in the forthcoming GREATEST JOKER STORIES EVER TOLD.

* * * * *

Dear Robert and the Deadshot crew,

I have just read DEADSHOT #1 and as a loyal fan of his and of the rest of the Suicide Squad, I must say it is a masterpiece among comics. The Ostrander/Yale writing team was incredible with its fantastic descriptions showing Deadshot's volubility and the aura of mystery that surrounds his personality. The art by Mr. McDonnell and colors by Ms. Ferriter were a great credit to them and I look forward to seeing them team up again in issue #2.

Chris Pimentel
No Address Given

* * * * *

Dear Bob,

Re: DEADSHOT #1

Comments:

1) Luke McDonnell is the only inker for his pencils.

2) The death wish thing is good, just don't take it too far.

3) Nice cover.

4) I'm very familiar with Deadshot's origin, but the recap was nice.

5) I read SUICIDE SQUAD every month, but somehow I missed the segment where we find out about his wife. It's a good thing you reviewed that part in this issue.

Tim Callahan
PO Box 829
Lakeshore, MA 01237

* * * * *

Dear Creators,

This is my first letter to DC Comics and the DEADSHOT series provoked it. I just read #1, and it was as good as I anticipated. I am a newcomer to the Deadshot character, so I hope these questions haven't already been asked 101 times.

1) I believe in the power of guns, but can Deadshot shoot his wrist magnums?

2) Does Deadshot's battle gear have any protection or does he even care?

3) If Ms. Marnie slapped Floyd and he kissed her, what would you do to get him to propose?

4) Are there any plans for a permanent Deadshot series?

Reno Barry
48728 Park Avenue
Morongo Valley, CA 92256

1) We've never addressed the question so I suppose we should.

2) The gear he wears protects him, but we're not sure to what degree. Another element to explore.

3) You don't want to know.

4) Not yet, but once the sales figures are in on this mini-series we can discuss it.

* * * * *

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Well, the mini-series is over, so it's time for Deadshot to return to the Suicide Squad. And he gets there just in time to be sent out after Rick Flag. Flag has gone AWOL and he's already killed Derek Tolliver. Now Flag is after Senator Cray and Deadshot must stop him, using every means available. This one changes the Squad and Deadshot permanently. You won't want to miss out on the action.

Also, keep your comments coming here and we'll devote some Squad space to them in the coming months.

Thanks for supporting this mini-series. John, Kim, Luke, Tim, Julianna, and I take a lot of pride in it. We'll be seeing you around the DC Universe.

—Bob Greenberger